

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W

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R 131305Z FEB 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4497

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 1000

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, AR  
SUBJECT: FURTHER TERRORIST DEPRECATIONS

Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full **DECLCONTROL**  
(☐) Classify as \_\_\_\_\_ (☐) Extend as \_\_\_\_\_ (☐) Downgrade to \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

1. ON MORNING OF FEBRUARY 11, 1976 THE COMMANDER OF THE MAR DEL PLATA ARMY GARRISON, COL. RAFAEL REYES, WAS SHOT AND KILLED IN A TERRORIST ATTACK. AT THE TIME THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE, REYES WAS LEAVING HIS HOME TO GO TO THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE 601ST UNIT WHICH HE COMMANDS. HE, ALONG WITH TWO CONSCRIPTS WHO ACT AS HIS CHAUFFEUR AND BODYGUARD, HAD GONE ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE FROM HIS HOME WHEN THEIR VEHICLE WAS INTERCEPTED AT A SPOTLIGHT BY AT LEAST TWO VEHICLES DRIVEN BY TERRORISTS. ACCORDING TO EYE-WITNESSES, THERE WERE SEVERAL PERSONS, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE WOMAN, IN THE CARS WHO OPENED FIRE WITH MACHINE GUNS AND PISTOLS, KILLING REYES AND WOUNDING THE CONSCRIPTS. THE ATTACKERS WERE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR ESCAPE. LATE IN THE DAY LOCAL NEWSPAPERS WERE ADVISED THAT THE ATTACK HAD BEEN PERPETRATED BY THE "RED BRIGADES OF WORKERS POWER," A GROUP BELIEVED TO BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH OR PART OF THE ERP.

2. IN A SECOND AND PRESUMABLY UNRELATED ATTACK, SEVERAL MEN DROVE IN FRONT OF THE AUSTRIAN CHANCERY AT APPROXIMATELY 1:30 -A.M. ON FEBRUARY 12, FIRING SHOTS AT THE BUILDING. A GUARD IN FRONT OF THE CHANCERY RETURNED FIRE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND APPARENTLY DROVE OFF THE ATTACKERS. THERE WERE NO INJURIES IN THE ATTACK AND NO GROUP HAS AS YET TAKEN CREDIT FOR THIS ACTION.

3. COMMENT: COMMANDER REYES FORCES RECENTLY HAVE HAD SEVERAL SUCCESSES IN COUNTER-TERRORIST OPERATIONS WHICH MAY EXPLAIN MOTIVE FOR ATTACK. HOWEVER, HIS DEATH MAY RAISE SUSPICIONS IN MILITARY CIRCLES AS TO WHO THE REAL PERPETRATORS WERE AS REYES HAD RECENTLY GOTTEN INTO SQUABBLE WITH CGT BECAUSE HE HAD ORDERED THE ARREST OF A LABOR LEADER FOR ATTEMPTING TO BOARD A COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT WHILE HEAVILY ARMED. THE ATTACK ON THE AUSTRIAN CHANCERY IS A COMPLETE MYSTERY BOTH AS TO THE ORIGINS OF THE PERPETRATORS AND THEIR MOTIVE FOR CARRYING OUT ATTACK. EMBASSY UNAWARE OF ANY POLITICAL DISPUTE WHICH COULD EXPLAIN LAST NIGHT'S INCIDENT.

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